

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on December 19, 2003 has been carefully considered and the Examiner's remarks are appreciated. Claims 1, 2, 14, and 15 have been canceled, and claims 3 and 16 have been amended to incorporate the associated base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore claims 3-13 and 16 are presented for examination.

Discussion of Objection to Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawing for not including reference numbers. Applicants have corrected Figure 1 with the appropriate reference characters.

Allowable Subject Matter: Objection to Claims 3-13, and 16

The Examiner also objected to claims 3-13, and 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion and have rewritten claims 3 and 16 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that amended claims 3 and 16 are now allowable as rewritten, and claims 4-12 are also allowable as being dependent on amended claim 3.

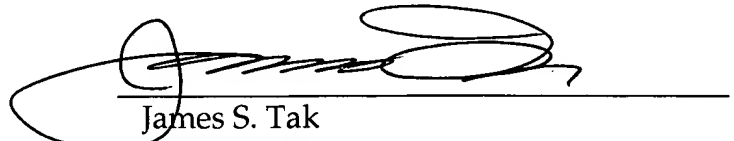
Summary

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-13 and 16 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 3-13 and 16.

In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, he is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned at (925) 422-7274.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3-19-, 2004 By:



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